river front development, low cost sanitation, etc. taken up in 25 class I towns under the Plan, 254 schemes have been completed. With the completion of these schemes, it has been possible to minimise the organic pollution reaching the Ganga river. However, there has been only an incidental reduction in the level of microbial pollution of the treated sewage reaching the river. Moreover, under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, only 873 million litres per day of sewage was planned for treatment. This constitutes only about 35% of the pollution load being generated from all the towns along the river Ganga. Major investments under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I were made on core schemes of interception & diversion of sewage and sewage treatment plants. An amount of equivalent to about 12% of the project cost was made available for abatement of non-point pollution viz. provison of toilets in the fringe area of the river for minimizing the incidence of open defecation and construction of electric crematoria to minimize the disposal of half burnt/unburn dead bodies into the river. Major initiatives in this regard were expected from the local bodies particularly in providing facilities to tackle pollution from city garbage, cattle sheds and cattle washing and provision of toilets in the remaining area of the town. This was not forthcomng. For these reasons, the full benefits of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I could not be realized as expected.

(c) Precautionary measures are being taken during the implementation of Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. They are:

(i) A committee of Non-Government Organizations, environmentalists and public health engineers has been constituted for suggesting measures for improvements in the Ganga Action Plan.

(ii) The remaining pollution load (over and above what has been tackled under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I) has been taken up under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II.

(iii) To address the problem of microbial pollution, it has been decided to either use oxidation pond technologies for sewage treatment or use the treated sewage for irrigation.

(iv) Non-point sources of pollution such as disposal of garbage along the river banks, cattle wallowing and improper disposal of dead bodies and animal carcasses are to be substantially and concurrently done by the local bodies for which they are equipped with the necessary regulatory powers. A study has been entrusted to IIT, Kanpur to carry out a detailed survey at Kanpur of the extent of pollution of the river from non-point sources and to suggest measures which the local body should undertake to remedy the situation.

(v) For the better operation and maintenance of assets, it has been decided that assets being created under the river action plans would be handed over to the local bodies after completion and that the construction agency may continue to maintain the assets on contract basis till such time the local body acquires the necessary technical expertise for this purpose. The construction agency may maintain the assets under the supervision of the local body who may be financially assisted by the State Government.

(vi) Citizens' Committees have been ordered to be constituted in the towns under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II to monitor the implementation of works.

पर्यावरणीय परियोजनाओं के लिए निधियों का आबंटन

1892. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा पर्यावरणीय परियोजनाओं के लिए धन का आबंटन करने के लिए किसी प्रक्रिया (कार्यविधि) के संबंध में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के साथ चर्चा की गई थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी):(क) और (ख) जी, हां। पर्यावरण सेक्टर के लिए उपयुक्त ऋण विधि और प्राथमिक क्षेत्र के ऋण के अन्तर्गत प्रदूषण नियंत्रण प्रणालियों के लिए निधियां देने की आवश्यकता के बारे में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के साथ चर्चा की गई है।

Building Norms for Cantonment Towns

1893. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no building norms have been framed for cantonment towns by the Ministry of Defence despite continuous follow-up from the Ministry of Environment and Forests; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) for how many years the Ministry of Environment and Forests is making efforts to get such building norms framed and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) All Cantonment Boards in the country have framed their building bye-laws under Section 186 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 to regulate building activites in their respective areas. Ministry of Environment and Forests had, in November, 1986, requested the Ministry of Defence to formulate scheme of restrictions under Section 181-A of the Cantonments Act, 1924. Ministry of Defence have informed that there was no possibility of framing common building bye-laws for making these applicable to all cantonments. However, to bring about uniformity in building norms, a committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Defence to examine the matter and make appropriate recommendations in this regard.

Ranger of Kaziranga

1894. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are only 150 rangers in Kaziranga to cover 430 Sq. Kms. area;

(b) if so, whether poachers are taking advantage; and

(c) the measures proposed to save the endangered rhinos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As informed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, the total strength of field staff in Kaziranga National Park is 495. However, at present only 410 numbers of field staff including 7 numbers of Forest Rangers are working in Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The anti-poaching measures in Kaziranga have been quite effective and the number of rhinous killed by poachers has declined considerably.

(c) The measures taken to save the endangered Rhinos are:

(i) A network of 6 wildlife sanctuaries and 3 national parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments. A special scheme of 'Conservation of Rhinos in Assam' has now been transferred to the State Government along with resources since 1992-93 as per the recommendations of the National Development Council.

(ii) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection.

(iii) Trading in Rhino parts and products is also banned by law.